

Senate Resolution 588

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Office of Child Support Services Fatherhood/Paternity
2 Program; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) Fatherhood/Paternity Program
4 (FPP) assists fathers in establishing healthy relationships with their children and finding
5 stable employment in order to provide increased emotional, parental, and financial support
6 to their children; and

7 WHEREAS, in recognition for FPP's outstanding work for fathers throughout Georgia, the
8 program has been honored with a Customer Service Excellence Award from the Governor's
9 Office; and

10 WHEREAS, FPP is dedicated to helping vulnerable families in Georgia address barriers such
11 as unemployment, substance abuse, criminal records, mental health issues, lack of education,
12 and lack of transportation; and

13 WHEREAS, the Paternity Unit of FPP focuses on establishing paternity for children born out
14 of wedlock so that fathers and children have the opportunity to become emotionally
15 connected and increase the likelihood of support payments; and

16 WHEREAS, the agents and coordinators of FPP work tirelessly throughout the state to
17 establish and identify community partners that can help provide families with needed
18 resources; and

19 WHEREAS, a signature of FPP is its life-skills workshop curriculum, which since 2001 has
20 served over 25,000 noncustodial parents, helped over 3,500 participants earn a GED, helped
21 over 1,500 participants earn a vocational certificate, and assisted over 15,000 participants
22 obtain employment; and

23 WHEREAS, the Paternity Unit of FPP has increased the state-wide paternity establishment
24 rate from 85.3 percent to 90.72 percent; and

25 WHEREAS, FPP also offers access and visitation services to fathers which provides
26 mediation plans, parenting plans, supervised visitation, and group educational courses to help
27 fathers and their children maintain emotional connections; and

28 WHEREAS, FPP's access and visitation services have expanded from the Metro Atlanta area
29 to include services for families in Augusta, Columbus, Macon, Savannah, and 12 counties
30 in Middle Georgia; and

31 WHEREAS, FPP's commitment to improving relationships for families in Georgia is worthy
32 of recognition.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 commend the Office of Child Support Services Fatherhood/Paternity Program for its
35 innovative and thoughtful programs establishing and maintaining emotional connections
36 between fathers and their children and extend congratulations for the program's honor of a
37 Customer Service Excellence Award.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Office of Child Support Services
40 Fatherhood/Paternity Program.